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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2175211 A

GB 2175210 A

GB 1414709 A

GB 1228039 A

GB 1207287 A

EP 0110793 A2

(58) Field of Search

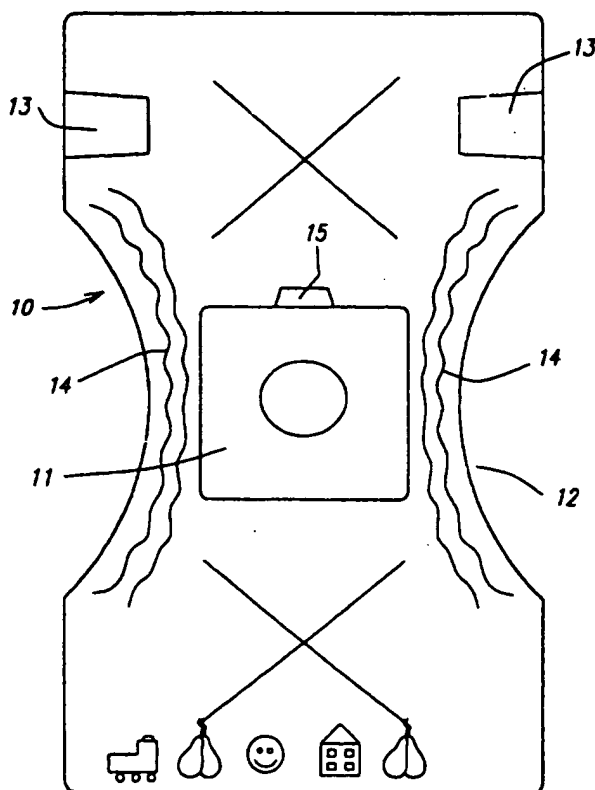
UK CL (Edition O) A5R RPC RPD

INT CL⁶ A61F 13/15, A61L 15/00 15/44 15/46

(54) Sanitary article with treatment substance

(57) A sanitary article in particular a nappy provided with a retaining means adapted to retain a treatment substance for nappy rash or the like in order to negate the need for applying said substance directly on to the skin of a wearer. In one embodiment the retainer has a removable cover 11 to prevent the rubbing of said substance until the article is required for use. The treatment substance may be petroleum jelly or zinc with castor oil. The article may also include pictures appropriate to babies and may be fragranced.

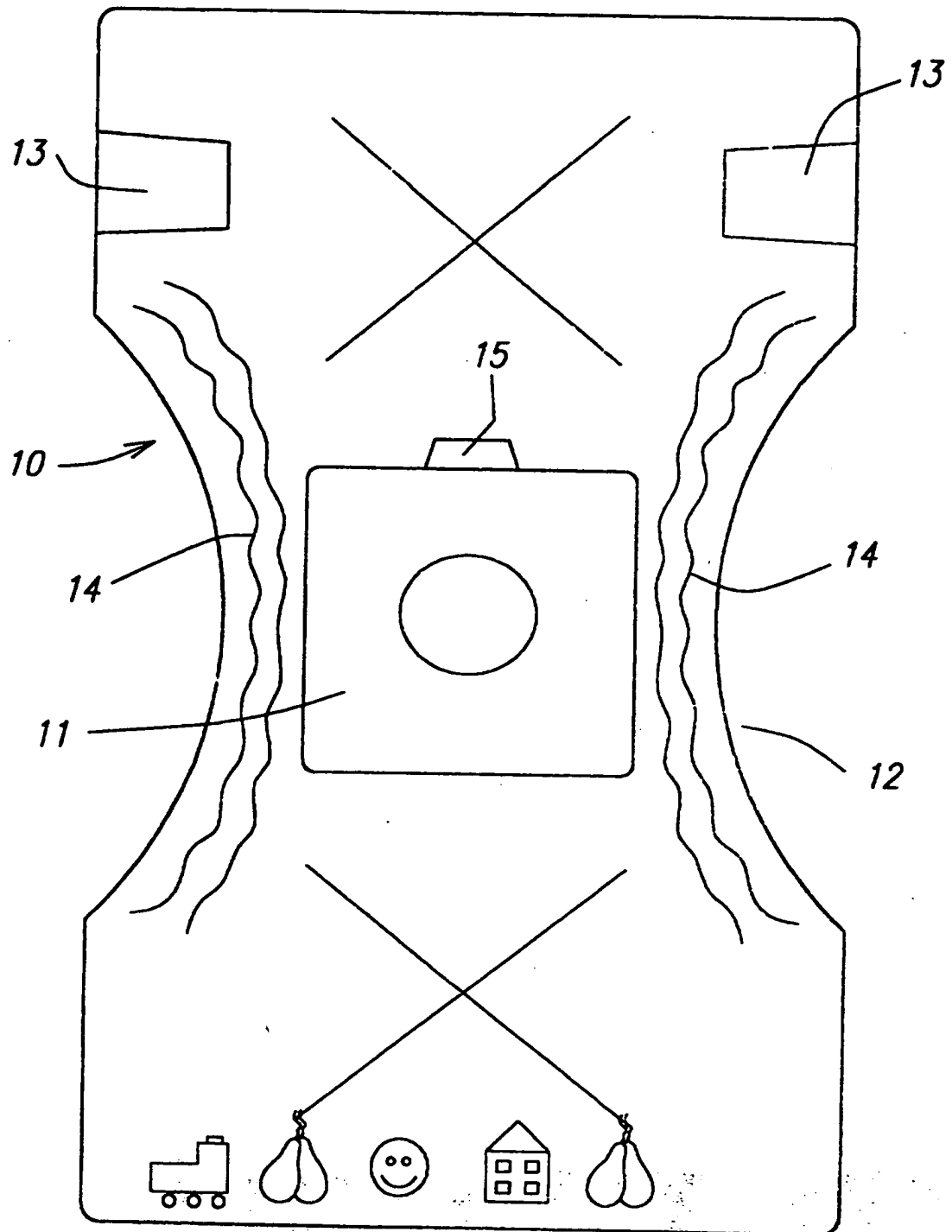
FIG. 1



At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995

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FIG. 1

SANITARY ARTICLE

This invention relates to sanitary articles, particularly, but not limited to, nappies or similar sanitary articles, and to a method of addressing
5 problems relating to sanitary articles.

Nappy rash can cause great discomfort to a wearer of a nappy or similar sanitary article. It is caused by prolonged contact of the skin with damp material and is exacerbated by any friction between the skin and the
10 damp material. Nappy rash is the term generally used for the rash caused by the above, although it need not necessarily be caused by a nappy. Other items worn next to the skin may cause the rash. Previously, nappy rash has been treated with various products including petroleum jelly and zinc with castor oil and similar products. It has been necessary to apply the product to the
15 area of skin affected (or likely to be affected) before a nappy or similar sanitary article which may cause the nappy rash is fitted.

Problems arise from previous nappies in that adhesive tabs, which are present to secure the nappy or similar sanitary article to the wearer, usually
20 become coated with a nappy rash treatment substance. When the tabs become so coated the adhesive qualities of the tabs are severely reduced and the nappy or similar sanitary article frequently cannot be secured to the wearer with sufficient security. It can be extremely wasteful if a nappy or similar sanitary article is contaminated to such an extent that it cannot be used. Additionally,
25 when previously the nappy rash treatment substance has been applied, it creates highly undesirable mess. Even if the nappy or similar sanitary article is still securable to the wearer, the person fitting the nappy or similar sanitary

article will, in any event, need to wash any excess nappy rash treatment substance from their hands.

5 It is an object of the present invention to address the problems mentioned above.

10 According to one aspect of the present invention, a sanitary article comprises a nappy rash treatment substance and means for retaining said nappy rash treatment substance in a chosen location.

15 The sanitary article is preferably a nappy. Said nappy may comprise a moisture impermeable outer surface. Said nappy may comprise an oil impermeable outer surface. Said nappy may comprise an absorbent inner portion. Said nappy may comprise an inner surface adapted to transmit moisture to the absorbent inner portion.

20 Said nappy may comprise a central section. Said central section may be laterally narrower than the rest of the nappy and may be arranged to surround the legs of a wearer. Said narrow central section is preferably arranged, in use, to lie adjacent to the region between the top of the wearer's legs. Said narrow central section may have elasticated edges.

25 Said nappy may comprise means for securing the nappy to a wearer. The securing means may comprise adhesive portions. Said adhesive portions may comprise adhesive tabs.

The nappy rash treatment substance may comprise any of the numerous substances available, including petroleum jelly, zinc with castor oil or similar

products or any new similar products. The nappy rash treatment substance may comprise a prophylactic treatment substance.

5 The nappy rash treatment substance may be located in the region of the central section of the nappy. The nappy rash treatment substance may be located on the inner surface of the nappy.

10 The retaining means for the nappy rash treatment substance may be removable from the nappy to expose the substance for use. The said retaining means may be moisture impermeable. The said retaining means may be oil impermeable. The nappy rash treatment substance may be retained on one side by the retaining means and on the other side by the inner surface of the nappy. The nappy rash treatment substance may be held between the retaining means and the said outer surface of the nappy.

15

 The retaining means may comprise a patch. The patch may be secured to the nappy. The patch may be secured to the inner surface of the nappy. The patch may be secured to the nappy by means of adhesive. The adhesive may be the same as that used for said adhesive tabs. The patch may be secured to the nappy by any other new means such as fused or high frequency welding.

20

 The patch may comprise means for removing the patch from the nappy. The means for removing the patch may be arranged to be held by a hand of the person fitting the nappy. The means for removing the patch may comprise a tab. The tab may protrude from an edge of the patch. The tab may be free of adhesive.

25

The nappy may comprise pictures of toys and similar items appropriate to babies on one or more of the surfaces thereof.

5 According to another aspect of the present invention a method of applying a nappy rash treatment substance to a wearer of a sanitary article comprising a nappy rash treatment substance and means for retaining said nappy rash treatment substance, comprises exposing the nappy rash treatment substance from the said retaining means and securing the sanitary device to the wearer.

10

The method may comprise the sanitary device being a nappy.

The method may comprise retaining means being a removable patch.

15

According to a further aspect of the present invention a sanitary article comprises a portion or portions thereof having fragrance applied thereto.

20

Any feature herein referred to in one aspect of the present invention may be combined with any other feature or features referred to in any other aspect of the present invention.

The present invention may be brought into practice in various ways but one embodiment will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which :-

25

Figure 1 shows a schematic view of a sanitary article

A shaped nappy 10 is provided with a sealed patch 11 covering a substantial part of a central section 12 of the nappy, which section 12 holds some petroleum jelly, a similar substance or any new similar product to address the problem of nappy rash. The nappy 10 additionally comprises
5 fragrance which has been applied to the nappy.

The nappy 10 comprises sticky tabs 13 to secure the nappy 10 around a baby. The central section 12 is narrower than the rest of the nappy and is intended to fit around the baby's legs. The central section 12 also has
10 elasticated sides 14.

In the centre of the central section 12 is a patch 11 which is removably attached to the nappy by means of an adhesive. The adhesive may be the same type used on the tabs 13. The patch 11 has a tab 15 located at an edge
15 of the patch. The tab 15 is securely attached to the rest of the patch 11 but is not otherwise attached to the nappy 10. The tab 15 is of sufficient size that it can be grasped between a person's finger and thumb for instance. Beneath the patch 11 there is some petroleum jelly or any new similar product (not shown). The petroleum jelly or new similar product is held between the
20 nappy 10 and the patch 11. The patch 11 is impermeable to the petroleum jelly or new similar product. The underside (not shown) of the nappy 10 retains any petroleum jelly or new similar product which may pass through the rest of the nappy with a membrane impermeable to the petroleum jelly or new similar product. The membrane is of the type normally used in a nappy
25 to retain the baby's waste.

The nappy 10 has pictures of toys and similar items appropriate to babies on the nappy, to improve the aesthetic appearance of the nappy 10.

The pictures are also present for the comfort of the baby, for sales appeal and for sales promotion.

In use, the nappy 10 is spread out on a surface, as is usual. The tab
5 15 is then grasped firmly and pulled, removing the patch 11. Petroleum jelly
or new similar product is revealed. A baby is then placed on the nappy 10
and comes into contact with the petroleum jelly or new similar product. The
central section 12 of the nappy 10 is that part which comes into contact with
the baby between the baby's legs. It is this part of the baby which is usually
10 smeared with petroleum jelly, or similar substance or new similar product, to
help prevent nappy rash. Previously, it has been very messy to apply the
petroleum jelly or new similar product and frequently the tabs 13 have
become covered with petroleum jelly or new similar product and have lost
their adhesive qualities. When the baby is placed on the nappy it is not
15 necessary for the person performing the procedure to touch the petroleum jelly
or new similar product. Once the baby has been placed on the nappy 10, the
nappy 10 is wrapped around the baby in the usual way. The adhesive tabs 13
are used to secure the nappy 10 in position. Pressure may be applied to the
underside (not shown) of the central section of the nappy 10 to ensure that
20 petroleum jelly or new similar product is applied correctly to the baby.

In the manner described above, the nappy 10 is placed securely around
the baby and by removing the patch 11 to reveal the petroleum jelly or new
similar product the baby can have nappy rash preventative applied to its skin
25 without the person fitting the nappy 10 becoming covered in the petroleum
jelly or new similar product and without the adhesive tabs 13 being rendered
useless by the petroleum jelly or new similar product. The nappy 10 is also
pleasantly fragranced to combat any unpleasant odours which may arise.

The above mentioned problems associated with previous nappies and with the trouble-free application of nappy rash treatment substance have thus been addressed.

5 The reader's attention is directed to all papers and documents which are filed concurrently with or previous to this specification in connection with this application and which are open to public inspection with this specification, and the contents of all such papers and documents are incorporated herein by reference.

10

All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually
15 exclusive.

Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly
20 stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing
25 embodiment(s). The invention extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

CLAIMS

1. A sanitary article comprising a treatment substance and a means for retaining said treatment substance at a chosen location in or on the sanitary article.
2. An article in accordance with claim 1 wherein the retaining means comprises a removable/resealable cover which, in use, is adapted to be removed from the sanitary article to expose the treatment substance to a wearer.
3. An article in accordance with either claim 1 or 2 wherein the retaining means is moisture and/or oil impermeable.
4. An article in accordance with claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said retaining means comprises a patch releasably secured to the sanitary article.
5. An article in accordance with claim 4 wherein said patch is secured by means of adhesive or by way of fused or high frequency welding.
6. An article in accordance with claim 4 or 5 wherein said patch comprises a means for removing said patch from the sanitary article.
7. An article in accordance with claim 6 wherein said means for removing said patch comprises a tab which projects outwardly from the edge of the patch.
8. An article in accordance with any preceding claim comprising a nappy.
9. An article in accordance with claim 8 wherein said nappy comprises a moisture impermeable outer surface, an absorbent inner portion and a moisture permeable inner surface adapted to enable moisture to be absorbed by the inner portion.

10. An article in accordance with claims 8 or 9 wherein said nappy comprises a central section which is laterally narrower than the remainder of said nappy and which is adapted, when in use, to lie adjacent to the region between the top of the wearer's legs.
11. An article in accordance with any one of claims 8-10 wherein the treatment substance is located on the inner surface of the nappy.
12. An article in accordance with any of claims 8-11 wherein the nappy further comprises means for securing same to a wearer.
13. An article in accordance with any one of claims 10-12 wherein the treatment substance is located in the region of the central section of the nappy.
14. An article in accordance with any of claims 8-13 wherein the nappy further comprises at least one portion having a fragrance applied thereto.
15. An article in accordance with any preceding claim wherein said treatment substance comprises petroleum jelly, zinc with castor oil or a prophylactic compound.
16. An article in accordance with any preceding claim comprising at least one picture and/or cartoon on one or more surfaces of the sanitary article.
17. Use of an article in accordance with any preceding claim for the treatment of nappy rash.
18. A nappy substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawing.



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Claims searched: 1-16 and 18

Examiner: Dr Jon Broughton
Date of search: 28 July 1997

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.O): A5R (RPC, RPD)

Int Cl (Ed.6): A61F 13/15; A61L 15/00, 15/44, 15/46

Other:

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passage | Relevant to claims |
|----------|--|------------------------|
| X | GB 2175211 A (PROCTOR AND GAMBLE) see page 4 lines 23-38. | 1, 8-11 and 13 |
| X | GB 2175210 A (PROCTOR AND GAMBLE) see page 4 lines 36-39 and page 5 line 29- page 6 line 19. | 1, 8-11 and 13 |
| X | GB 1414709 (COLGATE-PALMOLIVE) see page 1 lines 24-46, page 2 lines 7-17. | 1, 8, 9 and 13 |
| X | GB 1228039 (WATERBURY) see page 1 lines 69-87. | 1 |
| X | GB 1207287 (NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY) see page 1 line 61 - page 2 lines 23. | 1, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 15 |
| X | EP 0110793 A2 (PASQUINI) see whole document and WPI Abstract Accession number 84-147945. | 1 and 15 |

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step

Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.

P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.

E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.